

limited manufacturing sector lacked the capacity to absorb the burgeoning labor force. Salvation came through the export of skilled and unskilled labor to the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

The growth in the labor force has tapered off in the contemporary period and the unemployment rate in April 2006 was estimated at 134,000 or 10.7 percent of the labor force. Nonetheless, Jamaica has a precious stratum of own-account workers estimated at 376,000. In the goods producing sector, there are 200,000 people employed in agriculture, 105,000 in construction and a mere 80,000 in manufacturing. Traditional agriculture, particularly sugar-cane, there is an effort to adapt that industry through the conversion of sugar-cane into the fuel producing ethanol. The purchase of the sugar industry by Brazilian investors should make the sugar industry more viable and contribute to reducing Jamaica's dependency on fossil fuel and with sufficient capacity to export ethanol to the United States.

Jamaica's economy in the last decade has seen the expansion of the alumina industry and a massive increase in the tourist sector. Alumina and bauxite are highly capital intensive and only 7,000 workers are absorbed in the mining industry. The tourist industry is labor intensive but has failed to absorb all those looking for work as the burgeoning squatter settlements are rampant in the parishes where tourism is concentrated.

Jamaica has made some headway in the export of manufacturing goods. That sector exports approximately 700m in 2006 and if Jamaica is going to absorb its surplus labor problem, there will have to be exponential growth in that sector of the economy, particularly in agro-products.

The Jamaica exporting sector is assisted by state policy. Members of the Jamaica Exporters Association are eligible for loans with reduced interest rates. But what is desperately needed is a strategic developmental plan that brings together venture capitalists from abroad and Jamaica's indigenous bourgeoisie aimed at creating large scale production of juices like guava, june plum, etc. aimed at flooding both the European and the United States market. Micro-enterprises cannot compete in a global market and Jamaica is in need of large scale production aimed at mega-markets to absorb Jamaica's surplus workers.

All the successful countries that have made the transition from fledgling developing countries, like Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan and China, have made it through adopting an export-oriented strategy.

What is required is the emergence of an entrepreneurial class with a clear understanding of the complexity of globalization that will partner with government to build that export capacity. In this age of globalization, CARICOM must look outwards and build the necessary bridges with the Caribbean Diaspora to ensure that the Caribbean is not trapped in the backwater of globalization.

HONORING THE ROCHESTER, ILLINOIS LADY ROCKETS SOCCER TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Rochester Lady Rockets soccer team on their success in winning the cham-

pionship game of the Illinois High School Association Class A State tournament.

Kelly Werthwien, Kelcie Kolis, Sarah Wright, Grace Capranica, Marissa Burge, Beth Fitzsimmons, Kellse Sandercock, Amy Shackelford, Jessica Heaton, Jillian Sulcer, Mollie Edgecomb, Kassie McIntyre, Taylor Heissing, Kelcee Walsh, Amy Cassidy, Maryssa Bandy, Taylor McDermott, Alecia Mantei, Taryn Butler, Aubrey Heck, Caley Cook and Casey Turner, along with head coach Chad Kutscher, Assistant Coaches Scott Tucker, Andrew Ford and Kristi Coppennoll and Trainer Sara Powless, put together a 16-4-3 season and swept through the sectional tournament en route to their first State championship.

This is the third straight year in which the Lady Rockets reached the State tournament, and the first for Coach Kutscher.

I am very pleased to congratulate the Rochester Lady Rockets on their victory and wish them the best of luck for next season.

“CREATING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW”

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 2008

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend to the attention of this Congress the following speech by one of my constituents, 16-year-old Heidi Erbsen, of Stephenson County, Illinois. Heidi participated in an oratory contest hosted by the American Legion. Her speech won first place at the local, division and state levels, and she then moved on and completed as a quarter finalist at the national level of competition. As we face the difficult decisions of today, I hope Heidi's words will stir us to cling to our heritage as we seek to create a brighter tomorrow.

CREATING A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

(By Heidi Erbsen)

As many of you know, Abraham Lincoln is notorious for the Gettysburg Address, which states, “Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live.” When he spoke these words in 1863, it must have been hard for him to imagine our country's future. With all of the struggles facing our nation, how could he have ever known for sure that we would continue to prosper? The Civil War had split the nation, torn families apart, and claimed thousands of American lives, yet President Lincoln still believed in a brighter tomorrow for his country and his people. This mentality has carried our country through every single struggle it has faced. It is the belief that the people of our nation can give it a brighter tomorrow. And now, for over 200 years our country has prospered because of this belief, and it will continue to do so as long as we uphold this legacy.

When the monarchy in Europe began to mandate religion and other personal affairs in the 1600s, many people began to seek ref-

uge from their oppression. The rule in Europe made it so hard for people to live without persecution that many sought to leave their homes in search of a New Life. Thousands of these people found their new life in what was then known as the New World. Since the pilgrims sailed to America, this country has been a monument of hope. This New Land represented a chance for men and women to start over new. It gave them a chance to create their own fortune and futures. It was a land not yet at the grip of a stifling ruler or government. Most of these colonists arrived here with nothing in their pockets, and a dream in their hearts. It was the dream of freedom and prosperity, and it would not by any means come easy. The first men and women to colonize America suffered more than any of us can imagine. They endured brutal wars, strife, famine, and much more, but they never gave up their dream, and slowly they began to see this dream come alive. When the same ill leadership the pilgrims had escaped in the 1600s began to take hold of the New World in the 1700s the colonists finally fought back. After the Revolutionary War plagued them with years of death and despair, a new horizon dawned on America. The Declaration of Independence was signed and what was formerly known as The New World became The United States of America.

Becoming a free nation of our own may have seemed like the end of struggle for the people of America at the time, but it was really only the beginning. After being ruled by a single monarch for so long the people in our country had no idea how to govern themselves. When they were finally declared a free nation there was a long period of struggle for guidance and rule. Many feared that any form of government would tarnish the freedom they had struggled so hard to achieve. The very men who wrote our Constitution harvested the fear that they would become their own dictator. They knew that it was entirely up to them to see that the future of their country was a bright one, free from persecution and oppression in any form. That is why they did everything in their power to dispose of any form of ultimate rule. They knew they had only one chance to set the land of their dreams into motion. They wanted a balance between the power and the people. This way the people could have a say in what was just in everyday life rather than abiding by the rules of a leader focused only on what would make things easier for him or her. As a solution, they developed a three-part system, each containing officials elected either indirectly or directly by the people, each branch having one main duty: To see that one particular person or even section of the government never gained too much power. Not only did this three-part system give them the balance they were striving for, but our writers of our constitution hoped to ensure that every man, woman, and child living in America benefited from the natural freedoms to which we are all entitled. And to this day, it does just that.

As citizens of America today, we are still reaping the benefits of the sturdy foundation that was built up by our ancestors. The men and women who came together to put a stop to persecution did so not in vain. Look around. We are still living without it today. We have preserved their efforts, but in doing so some of us have lost sight of the sacrifices that have been made. Today many Americans take the freedoms we have for granted. I've lived in the United States all my life, and I'm sure many of you have. I understand completely how hard it is to walk out that front door every morning and not take what we have for granted. When you live in a country as free and prosperous as ours how